



PRESS RELEASE

ASIAN GYPSY MOTH CONTROL PUBLIC MEETING

For Release: Immediately

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The Idaho Department of Lands, in cooperation with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, will host a public information open house to explain the current situation and anticipated control project for the Asian gypsy moth that has been found near Hauser, Idaho.

A major outbreak of the Asian Gypsy Moth would have a devastating impact on Idaho. It would harm the environment through the loss of millions of trees and the habitat they provide. It would have a negative impact on our economy, particularly the agriculture and timber industries, by restricting the movement and sale of products. It would also harm the tourism industry.

Asian Gypsy moth caterpillars are capable of feeding on more than 500 species of trees and shrubs including several conifers. Trees repeatedly defoliated either die or become so weak that they are susceptible to disease and other pests.

The Idaho Department of Lands is planning on conducting treatments to eradicate the Asian gypsy moth from the area. This will be done by aerial spraying approximately 600 acres in the spring of 2005.

The pesticide that will be used has a naturally occurring bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Btk): A bacterium that affects only caterpillars, including gypsy moth. The caterpillar must eat Btk for it to have an effect. The soil inhabiting bacterium is already present everywhere in our environment.

The meeting will be held at the Hauser Lake Fire Protection District Station, (10728 North Hauser Lake Rd) on February 17, 2005 starting at 7:00 pm.

For more information contact the number listed above.